ENCOUNTERS WITH SCIENCE NO. 104 3-2837 FEBRUARY 13, 1976
RHODA MAINES

OPENING THE WEST
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

THE VOICE OF AMERICA PRESENTS...ENCOUNTERS WITH SCIENCE...A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE WORK OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS. TODAY: OPENING THE WEST.

VOICE:

AS THE UNITED STATES CELEBRATES ITS BICENTENNIAL, A LOOK AT THE AMERICAN HERITAGE FINDS SCIENCE PRESENT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THE AMERICAN WEST OPENED DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. JEFFERSONS NEGOTIATIONS WITH NAPOLEON LED TO THE U.S. PURCHASE FROM FRANCE OF A GREAT TRACT OF LAND WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CALLED THE LOUISIANA TERRITORY, IN 1803. DOCTOR WILLIAM H. GOETZMAN, DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, TELLS OF EARLY EFFORTS AT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE AMERICAN WEST ...

TAPE: CUT ONE -- GOETZMAN:

"...VERY EARLY IN OUR HISTORY THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THAT WE WERE, WHAT WE WOULD TODAY CALL AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY. AND SO THEY, OUT OF THE PUBLIC TREASURY, SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS WHICH WERE INVENTORIES."

VOICE:

PRESIDENT JEFFERSON ORDERED AN EXPEDITION TO EXPLORE WHAT IS NOW THE NORTHWEST OF THE UNITED STATES. MERIWETHER LEWIS AND WILLIAM CLARK LED THE GROUP, AND AN INDIAN WOMAN NAMED SACAGAWEA SERVED AS GUIDE AND INTERPRETER. THEY STARTED FROM ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI IN MAY 1806 AND RETURNED IN SEPTEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- GOETZMAN:

"...PART OF THE JOB OF THESE EXPLORERS WAS TO LOCATE MINERALS, TIMBER STANDS, VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION ROUTES, WATER, FARMLANDS AND ... WHOLE RANGES OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF FEATURES. AND THE LIST OF INSTRUCTIONS THAT JEFFERSON GAVE LEWIS AND CLARK RAN TO MANY PAGES. AND, IN THEIR SPARE TIME THEY WERE TO KEEP TRACK OF THE WEATHER AND THE INDIAN TRIBES. SO, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM AROUND 1800 UNTIL, CERTAINLY, NEAR THE VERY END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, WAS THE PRIMARY STIMULUS FOR SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY IN THE WEST..."

VOICE:

DISCOVERIES OF NEW PLANTS AND MINERAL DEPOSITS WERE SOME OF THE REWARDS FROM SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS THROUGH THE WEST. EXPLORATIONS OF ITS VAST UNKNOWN REACHES SERVED MANY PURPOSES. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE WERE A BY-PRODUCT OF THE WESTWARD EXPANSION. THEY WERE NECESSARY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT WESTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE POPULATION. THE CAREFUL OBSERVATIONS OF LEWIS AND CLARK HELPED FUTURE SETTLERS UNDERSTAND THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF THE AMERICAN WEST.

ANNCR:

THIS HAS BEEN ENCOUNTERS WITH SCIENCE...A REPORT ON THE WORK OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS. YOU HEARD TODAY: OPENING THE WEST. THIS PROGRAM WAS PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

RJM/LD/PY